

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

The Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) extends from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean and south to the Mexican border, encompassing some 1.65 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. These public lands are adjacent to California's most densely populated urban areas and include all BLM-managed land in Riverside County and portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties.

The PSSC FO is responsible for the signing and maintenance of public lands not only in rural areas but also in high-growth with urban interface concerns. Because of this, management and maintenance of these public lands directly influence the quality of life for the large and growing population of Southern California. Population growth and the continuing demands for OHV recreation in Southern California has led to increased use on public lands and OHV impacts to areas which were once backcountry regions and are now considered front country areas, easily accessible from many of the new communities. Each year more OHV users seek out new public lands to ride and participate in an activity they enjoy.

The Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Management Plan -2002 (NECO) planning area within the PSSC FO extends from the eastern end of the Coachella Valley continuing to the edge of the California Desert District near the Colorado River, south and north to the Riverside County line. Lands managed by the PSSC FO are comprised of designated routes of travel only and do not include any open riding areas such as Glamis or Johnson Valley. Within the NECO planning area, there are approximately 1,500 miles of designated routes available for recreational use. This area encompasses 1,322,636 acres of which 508,085 are closed to motorized use because of wilderness, ACEC or similar management designations, and 814,550 acres which are open for various recreational purposes. The Meccacopia Special Recreation Area located within this region is a prime example of the many recreational opportunities available. The unique mixture of stunning landscapes, tectonic formations with specialized plant and animal life draw large numbers of visitors to the area each year. This location offers ideal camping and OHV touring opportunities and receives its heaviest use during the winter season when temperatures are more moderate.

Through a public review process, a travel management plan was approved for the NECO area in 2002 but funding has not been available to implement the recommendations on the ground. Funding for this proposal through an OHMVR grant would greatly enhance visitor recreational experience by assisting in the route signing implementation of designated primary and secondary routes within the NECO area and the production of an educational brochure. The brochure will provide information to OHV users on the designated route locations and associated trail data, and promote responsible OHV use in the desert areas on the front side; and a trail location map and associated data on the back side. The brochures will be distributed by Law Enforcement personnel and resources staff while in the field, at local ATV and 4WD shops, at local public events, to OHV clubs, and at the field and district offices. Currently, there are no adequate maps or OHV riding information available to the public for this area. The need to implement the designated route signing process has become a primary concern since Riverside County recently passed a strict OHV ordinance that enforces illegal riding on private lands. The effect of the ordinance has been to divert additional OHV use onto public lands.

The goal of the project is to enhance OHV recreational opportunities by installing route identification markers on the roads and trails that are designated routes of travel. Work will include:

1. Installation of 4x4 metal posts with route numbers and directional arrows at all primary route intersections.
2. Refurbishing all existing 4 x 4 metal posts along routes with fresh paint, decals and route numbers.
3. Installation of carsonite posts with route numbers approximately every 1/2 mile or as trail conditions require on all primary routes and as necessary on secondary routes.
4. Replace old or damaged existing carsonite posts.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

Recreational use within conservation areas is always a challenge for any land agency. Within the Palm Springs - South

Coast Field Office (PSSC FO), resources staff has developed a designated trail system that allows the public access to the vast expanses of public lands. Route designations are based on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of the safety of all users of public lands and the minimization of conflicts among various user groups.

The NECO designated trail system encourages the recreational opportunity of viewing many unique points of interest as well as the journey along the route itself. Some of the designated routes in eastern Riverside County are historic military roads left from General Patton's desert training camps, prospector trails, and stagecoach lines. The goal of the PSSC FO OHV Program is to enhance recreational opportunities on public lands and decrease unlawful OHV use occurring off designated routes of travel into wilderness and sensitive areas. Implementation of the route designation by signing the roads and trails for authorized OHV travel will help BLM meet these goals.

Production of the brochure will provide a map and general information about the proper use of OHV's in a desert environment. The brochure will be designed to show the routes of travel along with interesting points of interest on the backside, and information about OHV regulations, safe riding practices, the Tread Lightly program, hazards that can be encountered while traveling and camping in the desert. Emergency contact information will also be provided.

C. Size of the Project

The Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) extends from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean and south to the Mexican border, encompassing some 1.65 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. The Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Management Plan -2002 (NECO) planning area within the PSSC FO extends from the eastern end of the Coachella Valley continuing to the edge of the California Desert District near the Colorado River, south and north to the Riverside County line. Lands managed by the PSSC FO are comprised of designated routes of travel only and do not include any open riding areas such as Glamis or Johnson Valley. Within the NECO planning area, there are approximately 1,500 miles of designated routes available for recreational use. This area encompasses 1,322,636 acres of which 508,085 are closed to motorized use because of wilderness, ACEC or similar management designations, and 814,550 acres are open for various recreational purposes.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

OHV opportunities in the NECO planning area are limited to designated routes of travel since there are no open riding areas within the field office. Much of the area in the "vast expanse" of eastern Riverside county that used to be used for riding in the past is no longer available since they are now managed as wilderness or areas of special concern. Most of the closed areas are set aside for the protection of environmentally sensitive species such as the desert Bighorn sheep or Desert Tortoise.

However, the PSSC FO is able to provide an extensive system of designated routes that traverse 814,550 acres of very unique scenery. The Meccacopia Special Recreation Area located within this region is a prime example of the many recreational opportunities available. The unique mixture of stunning landscapes, tectonic formations with specialized plant and animal life draw large numbers of visitors to the area each year. This location offers ideal camping and OHV touring opportunities. The Bradshaw Trail is a designated National Back County Byway that travels from the north end of the Salton Sea east to the Colorado River near the town of Blythe. This 70 mile trails offers scenic vistas of the Orocopia, Mecca, and Chuckwalla Wilderness areas to the north and the Chocolate Mountains to the south. Traveling the Bradshaw Trail provides access to additional designated routes that travel into or pass through the wilderness areas and provided access to historic mining sites or areas famous for rockhounding. Many of these trails provide wilderness access to a significant number of hikers as well as hunters during the hunting season.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700202

1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Field Office Map](#)
[NECO Project Area](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Example of Carsonite route designation markers](#)
[Example of typical 4x4 metal route marker post](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Application: Ground Operations, Designated Route Signing Implementation

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations, Designated Route Signing Implementation	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) extends from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean and south to the Mexican border, encompassing some 1.65 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. These public lands are adjacent to California's most densely populated urban areas and include all BLM-managed land in Riverside County and portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties.</p> <p>The PSSC FO is responsible for the signing and maintenance of public lands not only in rural areas but also in high-growth with urban interface concerns. Because of this, management and maintenance of these public lands directly influence the quality of life for the large and growing population of Southern California. Population growth and the continuing demands for OHV recreation in Southern California has led to increased use on public lands and OHV impacts to areas which were once backcountry regions and are now considered front country areas, easily accessible from many of the new communities. Each year more OHV users seek out new public lands to ride and participate in an activity they enjoy.</p> <p>The Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Management Plan -2002 (NECO) planning area within the PSSC FO extends from the eastern end of the Coachella Valley continuing to the edge of the California Desert District near the Colorado River, south and north to the Riverside County line. Lands managed by the PSSC FO are comprised of designated routes of travel only and do not include any open riding areas such as Glamis or Johnson Valley. Within the NECO planning area, there are approximately 1,500 miles of designated routes available for recreational use. This area encompasses 1,322,636 acres of which 508,085 are closed to motorized use because of wilderness, ACEC or similar management designations, and 814,550 acres which are open for various recreational purposes. The Meccacopia Special Recreation Area located within this region is a prime example of the many recreational opportunities available. The unique mixture of stunning landscapes, tectonic formations with specialized plant and animal life draw large numbers of visitors to the area each year. This location offers ideal camping and OHV touring opportunities and receives its heaviest use during the winter season when temperatures are more moderate.</p> <p>Through a public review process, a travel management plan was approved for the NECO area in 2002 but funding has not been available to implement the recommendations on the ground. Funding for this proposal through an OHMVR grant would greatly enhance visitor recreational experience by assisting in the route signing implementation of designated primary and secondary routes within the NECO area and the production of an educational brochure. The brochure will provide information to OHV users on the designated route locations and associated trail data, and promote responsible OHV use in the desert areas on the front side; and a trail location map and associated data on the back side. The brochures will be distributed by Law Enforcement personnel and resources staff while in the field, at local ATV and 4WD shops, at local public events, to OHV clubs, and at the field and district offices. Currently, there are no adequate maps or OHV riding information available to the public for this area. The need to implement the designated route signing process has become a primary concern since Riverside County recently passed a strict OHV ordinance that enforces illegal riding on private lands. The effect of the ordinance has been to divert additional OHV use onto public lands.</p> <p>The goal of the project is to enhance OHV recreational opportunities by installing route identification markers on the roads and trails that are designated routes of travel. Work will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of 4x4 metal posts with route numbers and directional arrows at all primary route intersections. 2. Refurbishing all existing 4 x 4 metal posts along routes with fresh paint, decals and route numbers. 3. Installation of carsonite posts with route numbers approximately every 1/2 mile or as trail conditions require on all primary routes and as necessary on 		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Application: Ground Operations, Designated Route Signing Implementation

6/2/2009

		secondary routes. 4. Replace old or damaged existing carsonite posts.					
	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-OHV Coordinator	480.000	31.000	HRS	7,440.00	7,440.00	14,880.00
	Other-Outdoor Recreation Planner	240.000	36.000	HRS	4,320.00	4,320.00	8,640.00
	Other-Park Technician	640.000	23.000	HRS	14,720.00	0.00	14,720.00
	Other-Park Technician	640.000	23.000	HRS	14,720.00	0.00	14,720.00
	Other-GIS Specialist	160.000	35.000	HRS	0.00	5,600.00	5,600.00
	Other-NEPA Specialist	160.000	54.000	HRS	0.00	8,640.00	8,640.00
	Other-Archaeologist	160.000	45.000	HRS	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00
	Total for Staff				41,200.00	33,200.00	74,400.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Carsonite Posts Notes : Carsonite posts include a decal with route designation number on both sides	1200.000	25.000	EA	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00
	Other-4X4 Posts Notes : Metal 4x4 posts	50.000	50.000	EA	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Other-Paint Notes : 24 gallons of paint	10.000	24.000	MISC	240.00	0.00	240.00
	Other-Brochures Notes : brochures to be developed in-house with staff specialists including GIS. Brochure to be double sided, 19" x 26".	15000.00 0	0.450	EA	6,750.00	0.00	6,750.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Application: Ground Operations, Designated Route Signing Implementation

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Concrete	150.000	3.500	EA	525.00	0.00	525.00
	Other-Misc Tools	1.000	150.000	EA	150.00	0.00	150.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				40,165.00	0.00	40,165.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-4 X 4 Pickup Rental Notes : vehicle for crew / project using GSA rental	80.000	26.000	DAY	2,080.00	0.00	2,080.00
	Other-Power Auger	25.000	35.000	HRS	0.00	875.00	875.00
	Other-Paint Sprayer	40.000	35.000	HRS	0.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
	Other-GPS Unit	60.000	10.000	DAY	0.00	600.00	600.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				2,080.00	2,875.00	4,955.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-administrative cost	1.000	3000.000	EA	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Total Program Expenses					86,445.00	36,075.00	122,520.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					86,445.00	36,075.00	122,520.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					86,445.00	36,075.00	122,520.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
Application: Ground Operations, Designated Route Signing Implementation

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	41,200.00	33,200.00	74,400.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	40,165.00	0.00	40,165.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	2,080.00	2,875.00	4,955.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		86,445.00	36,075.00	122,520.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		86,445.00	36,075.00	122,520.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		86,445.00	36,075.00	122,520.00	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700202

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

No wetlands or navigable waters are included within the project area. It has been determined that the project would not result in significant impacts on wetlands or navigable waters. It has been determined that this project is not likely to adversely affect, but to have a potential beneficial effect on sensitive species and their associated habitat. See page 2 of the attached Categorical Exclusion CA660-09-27

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

See page 2 of the attached Categorical Exclusion: CA660-09-27.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information on cumulative impacts:

- California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980 (as amended)
- Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Coordinated Management Plan, 2002

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

The possibility of the proposed action significantly affecting the environment due to steep slopes or highly erosive soils is negligible. Any efforts to sign unauthorized OHV routes on steep slopes would be limited to the base of the slope. Since the designated route system has been reviewed and authorized through the land use planning process, there is a low likelihood that any of the designated route signing proposed in this project would occur on steep slopes or areas with high erosive potential.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

The project area is not within the view shed of any scenic highways and has no potential for damage to scenic resources associated with a state scenic highway.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information on visual resources:

- California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980 (as amended)
- Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Coordinated Management Plan, 2002

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

This project would not cause any indirect significant impacts that would cause user groups to go elsewhere, result in significant impacts off-site, or cause a significant increase in OHV use near the project site. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) provides sufficient legal OHV opportunities through the management of approximately 1,500 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) designated routes. Associated land use plans have already designated these authorized routes of travel and this project would not close any authorized routes. By signing the designated routes with route numbers and names, this project would enhance rider experience by providing direction and location, as well as confirmation that the rider was on an approved route. The educational brochure would also aid the rider in determining location and providing information on legal riding areas. An improved delineation of authorized verses unauthorized routes by way of signage, physical barricades, law enforcement, education, and/or restoration efforts would improve OHV compliance.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Route Signing NEPA document](#)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700202

1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The project will sign open routes designated under the NECO plan, thus increasing OHV potential on marked routes. Unmarked routes would not be open for use. The project area is rich in cultural features; the signing of the open routes will decrease the impact to cultural sites which are in the area and not along designated routes. The open signed routes would reduce impacts on several special status wildlife and plant resources which occur in areas where OHV's may otherwise enter closed areas. Signing the designated routes should help reduce the incidences of trespass from public to private lands.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☐ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☐ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project will provide traffic control though marking of designated routes as well as intersections. The brochure (ohv information and map) will provide public with directions and information on safe riding practices and etiquette which will reduce conflicts between various OHV users, as well as other motorized and non-motorized users.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project is the implementation phase of the NECO management plan. Development of the plan included public scoping meetings, presentations to interested parties, meetings with stakeholders and comments for the general public as well as special interest groups such as 4WD clubs, ATV users and non-motorized user groups.

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points) ☒ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

In the past, local 4WD clubs were active participants within the Palm Springs Field Office. With the loss of several term staff that filled the OHV coordinator positions over the last couple of years and the loss of the OHV recreation planner last year, participation has dropped off due to lack of planning and coordination. With new OHV staff now hired, coordination on trail projects and signing will resume. Participating groups include CORVA, CTUC, and Desert Side Tracs.

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 3

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)
☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
☐ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project will help protect cultural resources, special status species, and water quality. Marking unauthorized routes and directing OHV users to remain on designated routes will help protect the numerous cultural resources in the area. Marking routes closed to areas that are sensitive to special status species such as the desert tortoise and Bighorn sheep and implementing seasonal closure signs will protect special status species. Marking routes closed in areas of high impact, soil disturbance and erosion will help protect water sources and quality.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 1

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
☐ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
☒ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 0

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ No (No points)

☐ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Birding

☒ Hiking

☒ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☒ Other (Specify) [hunting]